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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/668,034	09/22/2003	Rainer Bosse	33544/US	1433
7590	10/19/2006		EXAMINER	KOHARSKI, CHRISTOPHER
David E. Bruhn DORSEY & WHITNEY LLP Intellectual Property Department 50 South Sixth Street, Suite 1500 Minneapolis, MN 55402-1498			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3763	
			DATE MAILED: 10/19/2006	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/668,034	BOSSE ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Christopher D. Koharski	3763

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 31 August 2006.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1,2 and 5-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1,2 and 5-22 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 2 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
 6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION***Response to Amendment***

Examiner acknowledges the amended claims 1, 6, 7, 16, 17 and new claims 18-22 filed with the RCE on 8/31/2006. Currently claims 1,2 and 5-22 are pending for examination.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments, see Remarks filed, filed 8/31/2006, with respect to the rejection(s) of claim(s) 1,2 and 5-22 under Vaillancourt (5,591,138) have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn. However, upon further search and consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made in view of Nathan et al. (5,374,255) and Castillo et al. (5,336,199) (see below).

Claim Objections

Claim 2 is objected to because of the following informalities: Regarding claim 2, the "...it..." in relation to the latch is vague and indefinite; Examiner assumes the latch refers to the cover. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

- (b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1, 5-6, and 18-21 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Nathan et al. (5,384,255). Nathan et al. discloses a needle cover assembly for syringes.

Regarding claims 1, 5-6 and 18-21, Nathan et al. discloses a cannula cover for an injector (Figure 10) that can be axially retracted to expose a cannula (110) with a closed front and a sealing device (166) that is coupled to the interior of the cannula cover and opens via radial movement of the sealing device made up of two tongues from the center of the cannula passage opening. Wherein the sealing tongues move away from each other and are fixed at the rear portion of the cannula cover and are moveable via a slaving means (174) by the cover's rotation.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

Claims 1, 5-10, 12, 15-18 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Castillo et al. (5,336,199). Castillo et al. discloses a medical needle and needle sheath assembly.

Regarding claims 1, 7-11, 12, 15-18 and 22, Castillo et al. discloses a cannula cover (Figures 3-6) that can be axially retracted prior to use to expose a cannula (14) with a substantially closed facing front wherein a sealing device (26) is coupled to the interior of the device that can expose the cannula opening via radial retraction of the sealing device (Figure 4), wherein the sealing device (or strip) comprises a covering flap (26) that can be slid away in a longitudinal guide. A spring element is provided (40) to bias the cover and a spring (52) element to bias the opening member.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nathan et al. (or Castillo et al.) in view of Vaillancourt (5,591,138). Nathan et al. (or Castillo et al.) meets the claim limitations as described above except for a rotational latch.

However, Vaillancourt teaches a protected needle assembly.

Regarding claim 2, Vaillancourt teaches a needle assembly with a latch 21-24) that control rotational movement (Figures 1-5).

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to add the latch of Vaillancourt to the system of Nathan et al. (or Castillo et al.) because the addition of latch allows for additional cover movement control. The references are

analogous in the art and with the instant invention; therefore, a combination is proper. Therefore, one skilled in the art would have combined the teachings in the references in light of the disclosure of Vaillancourt.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

Claims 13-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nathan et al. (or Castillo et al.) in view of Foster (6,217,559). Nathan et al. (or Castillo et al.) meets the claim limitations as described above except rotational threading.

However, Foster teaches an automatic safety syringe.

Regarding claims 13-14, Foster teaches a threaded insert (50) that is coupled to the cover and controls rotation movement (Figures 1-4, col 2, ln 1-69).

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to add the threaded element to the system of Nathan et al. (or Castillo et al.) because the addition of the threaded element allows for controlled axial movement. The references are analogous in the art and with the instant invention; therefore, a combination is proper. Therefore, one skilled in the art would have combined the teachings in the references in light of the disclosure of Foster.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Christopher D. Koharski whose telephone number is 571-272-7230. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30am to 4:00pm EST.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nick Lucchesi can be reached on 571-272-4977. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Date: 10/6/06

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Christopher D. Koharski
AU 3763

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